



Copper Mountain South Pit Expansion Project

Preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact

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Based on the analysis of the potential environmental impacts contained in the Environmental Assessment for the Copper Mountain South Pit Expansion, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Las Cruces Field Office, has reached a preliminary finding that impacts on the human environment are not expected to be significant and that an environmental impact statement is not required.

Rationale for Finding:

The BLM has reached this preliminary finding based on the environmental analysis of the Mine Plan of Operations and the Closure/Closeout Plan (MPO/CCP) submitted by Phelps Dodge Tyrone, Inc. to the BLM for the proposed expansion project. The MPO/CCP contains measures required by both the BLM and the State of New Mexico to minimize environmental impacts, and we find that implementing the proposed project would not result in any undue or unnecessary environmental degradation. The project conforms with the Mimbres Resource Management Plan that was approved on April 30, 1993.

Phelps Dodge Tyrone, Inc. is proposing to expand its current copper mining operation at the Tyrone Mine south of Silver City, New Mexico on lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The proposed action consists of expanding the Tyrone Mine pit by an additional 31.1 acres. The proposed action will impact approximately 14 acres of Federal lands managed by the BLM. There will be minimal or no impacts to surface water, ground water, and air quality. No "Special Status" plants species will be impacted. Section 106 consultation has been completed and no cultural resources will be affected. The loss of wildlife habitat will not be significant due to the presence of similar habitat surrounding the proposed area of disturbance.